

JAN 21 1925 /

W E S L E Y B A R R Y

In

THE FIGHTING CUB

By

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(Synopsis)

Thomas Patrick O'Toole, a lively youngster of seventeen, is copy boy on the Daily News. Possessing all the ambition that his wiry little body and tender years can possibly maintain, he aspires to be a cub reporter, for the principal reason that he adores his mother and realizes that her daily wash-tub drudgery is ageing and weakening her. Tommy is all the good woman has -- he is the man of the family, and desires to be respected as its sole provider.

On the staff of the Daily News is Tommy's only aversion, "Bull" Conner, Police Reporter, and secret member of "The Owls", a notorious gang of thieves who have baffled the police with their theft of the famous Monteberry jewels. The hatred between these two increases daily from the time Tommy tells Conner that a sure cure for his red nose is to drink until it turns purple. In contrast to this keen dislike on the part of the kid, there is Jack Turner, Managing Editor, whom he worships as a newspaper God, and an all-around good-fellow. There isn't a day that Tommy does not approach Turner on the subject of a raise and a promotion, until one day, Turner hands him the name of J. Wm. Toler, noted philanthropist, and tells him that he will give him the coveted job of cub reporter, if he succeeds in interviewing Toler on his settlement work. He warns Tommy that it is a tough job, for he, himself, is unable to interview him, in spite of the fact that he is engaged to marry Toler's oldest daughter, Jane. Tommy is determined to get the interview, but finds himself thrown out when the butler learns he is a reporter. He lands in the garden at the feet of Margie Toler, J. Wm. Toler's fifteen year old baby and pet. As she tells him that he must be a reporter, he recognizes the summer frock which she wears as the address he admired on his mother's clothes rack the day before. He cleverly wins her admiration by betting that her dad is at this moment wearing a striped shirt with socks to match, and a "gates ajar" collar, against the interview with Toler. He wins the bet and Margie secures the interview for him, learning later that his mother is their washer-woman, hence the clever guess work.

Conner, in the meantime, has been assigned to get the dope on "The Owls." Tommy returns triumphantly to the office and secures his promotion. Before going home, he draws on his increased salary and spends it all on potted plants and cut flowers to take the place of his mother's wash-tubs. With his arms thusly loaded, he accidentally stumbles upon the rendezvous of "The Owls", and learns that their chief will be down at mid-night the following night to pick up the Monteberry loot and to pay off. Thrilled with his discovery, he realizes that he must keep the story to himself, learn who the chief is the following night, and then notify the police, as he rushes his exclusive story to the News. Turner has an engagement with Jane and refuses to remain at the office the following night, unless Tommy proves that his story warrants an "extra". Reluctantly, Tommy tells him that it is about "The Owls." Turner wishes to put another more experienced man on the

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job, but Tommy refuses, threatening to give the story to another paper, if he does. Turner warns him that if he fails, his job goes with his failure. All this Conner overhears. He becomes panicky and determines to get his share of the loot, as well as save his own neck at the time of a raid. He, therefore, informs the police and instructs them to stage their raid at 12:10.

That night, Tommy, thrilled with the excitement of his adventure and his coming success, climbs into his hiding place in the cellar rendezvous, and with pad and pencil, awaits the coming of the mysterious chief. The man comes in the person of J. Wm. Toler, the father of the little girl who gave Tommy his chance, and at sight of him, the kid is thrown into the depths of despair. However, from the time Toler had his amusing talk with Tommy when he gave him the interview, the old man has deeply regretted his life of crime, and surprises Tommy as well as the gang by announcing that he is going to return the Monteberry jewels, and that he will give the whole gang time and money with which to get out of town.

Realizing the man's regeneration, Tommy sacrifices his job and his chance for future success by climbing out of the hole, only to discover that the place is surrounded by police. He endangers his life by returning and warning Toler. As he helps the old man to safety, Conner shoots Tommy, and then proceeds to rush the story to the Daily News for himself. Gory, one of the Owl's chiefs, is about to kill the injured Tommy for squealing, but the kid succeeds in convincing him that it was Conner. Gory goes after Conner, is caught and hand-cuffed by the police but makes his escape. Toler is caught in a trap outside the rendezvous with the jewels on his person, and thusly Tommy finds him. Tommy, in spite of his pain, relieves him of the jewels for the sake of little Margie, and the honor of his friend, Turner, engaged to Jane. With the jewels in his hand, he finally struggles to the newspaper office in time to see Conner stealing and rushing his exclusive story. He puts up a brave, but losing fight with Conner, who is about to kill him when Gory enters to avenge his gang. With the hand-cuff chain, he chokes Conner to death.

In the meantime, Toler, anxious about the boy, rushes to the newspaper office with his two daughters, and Tommy regains consciousness in the arms of little Margie.

In conclusion, we see the wealthy Toler family and Turner enjoying one of Mother O'Toole's old-fashioned corned beef and cabbage dinners at the tenement house of the O'Tooles, and Tommy has almost forgotten his success in the pretty smiles of Margie.

THE END.

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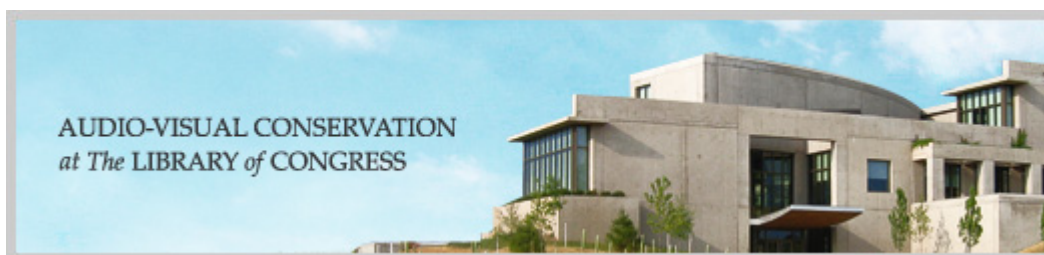
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